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The present invention relates to the use of a new principle for improving the viability and pregnancy potential of oocytes and pre-embryos obtained in connection with *in vitro* fertilisation and pre-embryo transfer treatment. More specifically, improvement by raising the content of Meiosis Activating Sterols (MAS) in the medium where the *in vitro* fertilisation takes place. This is achieved by exposing and culturing one or more occytes with spermatozoa in a culture medium comprising at least one meiosis activating sterol (MAS), a MAS analogue, and/or an additive or additives capable of endogenous stimulation of the accumulation of at least one MAS. Preferred additives are FSH and EGF.